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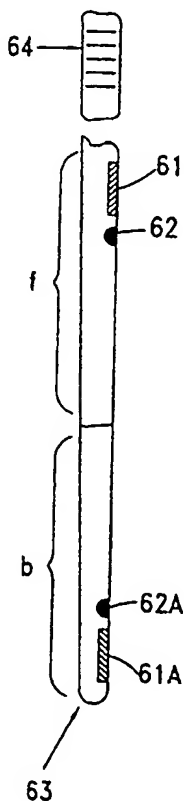
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FUNDOPLICATION APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An endoscopic device for the partial fundoplication for the treatment of GERD, comprises: a) a distal bending portion (b) and a flexible portion (f) suitable to be positioned in extended shape within the esophagus of a subject; b) a positioning assembly comprising two separate elements (62, 62A), one of which (62A) is located on said distal bending portion (b), and the other (62) on said flexible portion (f); c) a stapling assembly comprising a staple ejecting device (61A), wherein said staple ejecting device (61A) is located on either said bending portion (b) or on said flexible portion (f), said staple ejecting devices (61A) being in working positioned relationship when said two separate elements (62, 62A) of said positioning assembly are aligned; and d) circuitry for determining when said two separate elements (62, 62A) of said positioning assembly are aligned.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

Pv./IL 01/00238

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B17/068 A61B17/128 A61B1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 395 030 A (KURAMOTO ET AL.) 7 March 1995 (1995-03-07) cited in the application abstract; figures	1
A	EP 0 630 612 A (ETHICON INC.) 28 December 1994 (1994-12-28) abstract; figures column 1, line 55 -column 2, line 29 column 5, line 34 -column 6, line 10	1
A	US 5 897 562 A (BOLANOS ET AL.) 27 April 1999 (1999-04-27) cited in the application abstract; figures	1
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 October 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

08.02.02

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC, IL 01/00238

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 403 326 A (HARRISON ET AL.) 4 April 1995 (1995-04-04) cited in the application abstract; figures ---	1
A	US 5 197 649 A (BESSLER ET AL.) 30 March 1993 (1993-03-30) cited in the application figures ---	1
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P,A	WO 00 53102 A (GAZAYERLI) 14 September 2000 (2000-09-14) cited in the application the whole document ---	1,26-28, 30-44,47
A	US 5 772 099 A (GRAVENER) 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30) claim 1 ---	1,26,27, 29-31
A	US 5 676 674 A (BOLANOS ET AL.) 14 October 1997 (1997-10-14) cited in the application column 6, paragraph 4 ---	1,43
A	US 5 814 055 A (HUGHETT ET AL.) 29 September 1998 (1998-09-29) claim 1; figures 8,12-17 ---	27,32
A	US 5 833 616 A (BELL ET AL.) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) figures 1,4,6 ---	39
P,A	US 6 099 542 A (KIM ET AL.) 8 August 2000 (2000-08-08) claim 1 ---	41
A	US 5 727 553 A (SAAD) 17 March 1998 (1998-03-17) ---	
A	WO 91 00049 A (KARL STORZ GMBH & CO.) 10 January 1991 (1991-01-10) page 17, line 6 -page 23, line 14; figures 1-6C ---	48,49, 51,52
A	DE 42 41 938 A (KARL STORZ GMBH & CO.) 16 June 1994 (1994-06-16) column 7, line 41 -column 9, line 33; figures ---	48

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 889 662 A (MITSUI KAZUHIKO) 17 June 1975 (1975-06-17) column 4, line 4-50 ---	48,53
A	WO 89 11252 A (UNIV CONNECTICUT) 30 November 1989 (1989-11-30) page 19, line 3 -page 24, line 11; figures 1,2,4,5 ---	48-50
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IL 01/00238

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 20-25, 56, 62
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-19, 26-53, 63, 64

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-19,26-53,63,64

Endoscopic device comprising a bending portion and a positioning assembly.

2. Claims: 54,55

Endoscope having an illumination channel and at least one objective lens.

3. Claims: 57-61

Endoscope comprising a system for measuring the distance between two objects.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PC. IL 01/00238

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